

Easter in an Age of Uncertainty

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – April 12, 2009 (Easter)

Matthew 28:1-10; 16-20

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "**Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.'**" Now I have told you." 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, **afraid yet filled with joy**, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "**Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.**" 11-15 [the women went on their way]... 16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**"

As the women hurried away, the Bible says that they were, "afraid yet filled with joy"...

And suddenly Jesus greeted them.

They fell at his feet to worship him, and he said... (v. 10) "**Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.**"

Jesus says 3 things to us...

I. **THE RESURRECTION EMPOWERS US TO OVERCOME OUR FEARS.**

(v. 10) "**Do not be afraid...**"

The resurrection tells us that **Jesus Christ is Lord of all;** if he can **conquer death**, he can **conquer anything**.

Fear is just a **feeling**, and we **no longer** have to live by our **feelings**; we can live **by Faith**.

2. **THE RESURRECTION IMPARTS A MISSION TO US.**

(v. 10) "Do not be afraid. **Go and tell my brothers...**"

Just as Jesus gave those faithful women a message for the other disciples, He has given us a message for all the world: "**Tell them that I am alive.**"

(The Great Commission)

(v. 19) "**go and make disciples** of all nations..."

3. **THE RESURRECTION PROMISES THAT CHRIST WILL "SHOW UP".**

(v. 10) Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; **there they will see me.**"

As we face uncertain times, we can no longer afford to put our trust in **ourselves**, in our **relationships**, in our **economy**, in our **company**, in our **intellect**, in our **country**, or in anyone or anything else.

Our **one and only hope** is to put our **trust completely** in Christ and **wait for Him** to "show up".

In the last sentence of the Great Commission, Jesus says,

(v. 20) "And **surely I am with you always**, to the very end of the age."

CONCLUSION

The empty tomb demonstrates to us the **foundational truths** of Christianity:

- Jesus Christ is **Lord!**
- He has power over **death!**
- He has power over **sin!**
- He has power to **transform** your life!

In short, the Resurrection gives Christian's **HOPE!!**

Christian Hope is **not the same** as worldly hope. Christian Hope is **not Wishful Thinking**, and it's **not Contingent on Feelings** or **Perfect Circumstances**.

Rather, Christian Hope is **founded on the promises and character of God**.

Romans 1:4 [Jesus] was **declared with power** to be the Son of God **by his resurrection from the dead**.

The resurrected Christ would remind us to...

1. **Not be afraid** — Try Faith in place of Fear
2. **Go and tell** others about me
3. Put your **trust in me** and I will "show up"

Our **only hope** in this Age of Uncertainty **is Easter**. The **transforming love and power** of the **resurrected Jesus Christ** in our lives.